

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CASE FOR CHRIST MOVIE TICKETS

There is a new screening slot for the movie *The Case for Christ* on 25 Nov, 11am at 321 Clementi. The movie tickets are available for sale at the foyer for \$16, as the cinema is under WE and not GV. There will be a priority queue for those who have registered in the waiting list.

SERVE IN NEW LIFE

Be a Steady Readers Volunteer Mentor! Help children overcome challenges in reading and instil a love for books in them.
Dates: Weekly from Jan to May 2018
Time: 8pm – 9.30pm

Training sessions will be held on 6, 7, 13 and 14 Jan (choose one training session only) from 1pm to 5pm at Fajar Youth Hub.

To sign up or enquire, contact Jason Lee at 9635 1135, Lewis Woo at 9634 9457, or email volunteer@newlife.org.sg

BAPTISM CLASS

The next Baptism Class will be held on 4 Feb 2018, Sun, 1.00pm to 3.30pm at BPJ Centre. Sign up at the Information Counter.

MATURE ADULTS THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

Changes in health, work and family relationships may lead to unexpected crossroads in our lives. Why do they happen? Where should you go next? If you're aged 50 and above, still working or retired and worshipping in Covenant EFC, this is for you!

Date: 2 Dec (Sat)

Time: 9:30 am – 11am (breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 9:30am)

Venue: WDL Centre Chapel (Level 4)

Registration starts today and ends on 30 Nov. Register at <https://engage.cefc.org.sg/> If you need help to register, head down to the Mature Adults Booth at the foyer after the service **today**. See you there!

COVENANT EAST SERVICE ON 10 DEC

Please take note that on 10 Dec 2017, Covenant East will be holding Sunday service in the Grand Ballroom at Hilton Hotel Singapore Level 3, 581 Orchard Road, Singapore 238883. Service timing will still be 10am (pre-service prayer at 9.30am).

COVENANT EFC

ACKCentre: 2 Kallang Avenue, CT Hub #10-26, Singapore 339407

ONE CHURCH MULTIPLE CENTRES:

BPJ Centre: 8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm ■ WDL Centre: 8.30am & 10.30am ■ East Centre: 10.00am (Pre-service prayer: 9.30am)

Tel: (65) 6892 6811 ■ Email: mail@cefc.org.sg ■ Website: www.cefc.org.sg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CovenantEvangelicalFreeChurch

VISION

AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
& INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLEMAKING
OF A CERTAIN KIND

VISIBLE VALUES

- Grace
- Growth
- Godliness



UNDERLYING VALUES

- Truth
- Community
- Stewardship
- Balance
- Brokenness

COVENANT EFC

WOODLANDS CENTRE, 19 NOV 2017

SERVICE LEADER: SANDRA CHI ■ WORSHIP LEADER: KAREN PHUAH

To Whom Are You Giving Your Devotion?

PS VALERIE CHAN, DISTRICT MENTOR AND INTEGRATED EQUIPPING

During my recent reflection on John 12:1-8, which is the account of Mary anointing Jesus' feet with a pound of expensive ointment, I distinctly heard God asking me, "To whom are you giving your devotion?" My answer was obvious, "To You, Lord!"

Then came another question: "How much? Like Mary who gave her all sacrificially?" My instant reply was, "Yes, I have, Lord. You know how I have served You with deep commitment and passion all these years. How I have made sacrifices along the way, even sacrificing my time with family. How I said yes to be a District Mentor again this July which means more time away from my children. How ..." Before I could finish, His distinct voice came, "If you have truly made sacrifices, why do you grumble and complain?"

Ouch! That was a very painful truth I had to confront that day. I admitted I have a deceitful heart. My head would want to make the sacrifices as

my expressed devotion to the Lord, but my heart would often grumble if the way is inconvenient, costs me financially, or stretches my health a bit too far.

That day, I repented of my calculative devotion. Mary's devotion in John 12 – she broke the jar of ointment (which cost a year of wages!) on the feet of Jesus – was a sacrificial devotion!

I was reminded that God doesn't call us in our convenience or to our convenience, but calls us to a union and a communion with Him. As I give my devotion to Him, I am entering into a deeper communion with Him — a privilege given to me. So why grumble and complain?

C. T. Studd said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

So when God asks me, "To whom are you giving your devotion?" I can now, by His grace, say with a clear conscience, "To You Lord!"

SERMON OUTLINE

Confession

SCRIPTURE: EZRA 9:6-15 ■ SERMON: PS IVAN HO

Introduction

A. Grieving Over Our Sins (vv.6-7)

B. Remembering God's Grace (vv.8-9)

C. Acknowledging Our Willfulness (vv.10-14)

D. Depending on God's Mercy (v.15)

Conclusion

NEXT WEEK'S SERMON SPEAKERS:

26 NOV - REV DR CHUA CHUNG KAI (BPJ), PAUL SHI (WDL) AND REV TONY YEO (EAST)

LAST WEEK'S SERMON SUMMARY

True Religion

SCRIPTURE: 58:1-12 ■ SERMON: PAUL SHI

Introduction

The Church has been known to feed the hungry, build hospitals, protect the defenseless, build orphanages, fight slavery, etc. However at other times, the Church missed the point. During WWII, whilst trains filled with Jewish people sent to the gas chambers, the Church at the time would worship God whilst the trains went by. In order to drown out the 'nuisance' of people screaming, the Church would simply 'sing louder' to drown out their screams. In Isaiah 58, God is saying something similar to the people of Israel at that time. He was telling them that they were 'missing the point'.

A. Outward Religiosity (vv.1-5)

1. The passage begins with three key imperatives which emphasise the message that God wants to give to Israel: a. Raise your voice b. Cry loudly c. Declare to my people
2. God told them that they were doing the outward religious behaviour, but on the inside they were void of true spirituality, therefore God was deaf to their prayers.

| Religious Activity | Empty of Godliness |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Seek the LORD | Self focused |
| Following the ordinances of God | Oppress their workers |
| Ask God for decisions | Contention and strife in their midst |
| Delight in the nearness of God | Going through the motions |

3. Outward religiosity – Inward reality = Divine deafness and displeasure

B. True Fasting (vv.6-7)

1. God then explains what is true fasting that is before Him.
 - a. Release: Break the yokes of oppression.
 - b. Feed: Divide their food with the hungry.
 - c. Shelter: Give shelter to the homeless.
 - d. Clothe: Clothe the naked.
 - e. Help: Help their relatives; do not run away from them.
2. Illustration: Imagine having two sons. You knew that the oldest son, is a very good son as he did his homework, cleaned his room, did the chores. But then you realise that your older son did not stand up for his younger brother whilst he was being bullied. Would you be pleased with your older son?
3. In the same way, this is the heart that God has towards His people. They are showing outward religious behaviour, but deep inside they have missed the weightier matters of the law — mercy, justice and faithfulness.
4. Another expression of true fasting is found in the preaching of the Gospel. For the Gospel releases people from the chains of oppression. It feeds our soul with the Word of God, gives us our true spiritual shelter, clothes our spiritual nakedness, and we find our true help in the LORD our God.

C. Promises to True Fasting (vv.8-12)

1. Then there are 10 promises which follow those who show true fasting.
2. God essentially promises them to be their guard, to let their light shine forth.

Conclusion

In our lives, do we show true fasting, or merely outward religiosity?